

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 5, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. IVERSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 373.]

The Committee on Claims have had under consideration the memorial of William P. Bowhay, and make the following report:

Mr. Bowhay claims to have invented a machine for doweling, which he asserts has been for many years used in the navy-yards of the United States in the construction of ships-of-war; the claimant obtained a patent for this machine in 1816, which has long since expired, and whether the government has used it or not, the use of the machine was open to the world, and the government cannot be held responsible for it. Besides, the superintendent of the Bureau of Construction states, in a letter which was before the committee, that the machine in question has not been used by the government for the last twenty-five years.

The committee, therefore, cannot admit that the petitioner has any claim for the alleged use of his machine. The committee, however, considered the petitioner's case in another aspect. Under the petition referred, and the facts stated and proved, it appears that he was in the employment of the United States as a ship carpenter, on board the United States ship Congress, at the navy-yard at Washington city, as far back as 1816; that whilst so employed, and at work on the ship, the scaffolding gave way, and he was precipitated into the hold of the ship, receiving a dangerous fall, and was taken up insensible—was seriously hurt and wounded; and that he has been a cripple from that day to this.

The claimant came in person before the committee, with a reputable witness, who was present at the time of the accident, and who testified to the facts stated in the petition. The claimant exhibits himself as a very old and very infirm man, much crippled, and evidently incapacitated to earn a subsistence. The committee consider him a pitiable object, and appealing strongly to their sympathy. As the injuries which have thus rendered him incapable of supporting himself were received whilst in the employment of the government, and from no fault of his own, they consider him eminently entitled to relief.

Following several precedents heretofore made in similar cases, the committee have reported a bill to allow him five hundred dollars, which would probably be sufficient to support him during the remaining few years of his life.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

REPORT

OF THE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE PASSED MAY 10, 1890

AND A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED MAY 10, 1890

AND A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE PASSED MAY 10, 1890